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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Jiping Li and Peter G. Borden  
Assignee: Applied Materials, Inc.  
Title: Evaluating Sidewall Coverage In A Semiconductor Wafer  
Serial No.: 09/788,273 Filing Date: Feb. 16, 2001  
Examiner: Michelle Estrada Group Art Unit: 2823  
Docket No.: BOX009 US Confirmation No.: 6335

Santa Clara, California  
June 20, 2003

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
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**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Dear Sir:

**A. Introductory Comments**

This is in response to an Office Action dated March 20, 2003, which has a statutorily shortened period for response that ends June 20, 2003. Please enter the following amendments before taking action on the merits of the above-referenced application.

The following amendments are presented in a format set forth in a "Revised Notice AMENDMENTS MAY NOW BE SUBMITTED IN REVISED FORMAT" which is essentially same as the format being considered for adoption in July 2003 by revision to 37 C.F.R 1.121 (Manner of Making Amendments). Specifically, in the following amendments, the text being added is shown underlined and the text being deleted is shown struck through. Moreover, only a marked up version of each replacement paragraph and each replacement claim is provided below (because a clean copy is no longer required).

SILICON VALLEY  
PATENT GROUP LLP  
2350 Mission College Blvd.  
Suite 360  
Santa Clara, CA 95054  
(408) 982-8200  
FAX (408) 982-8210

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